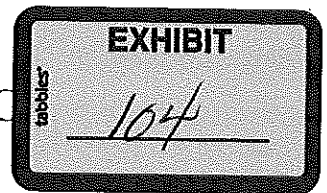




CHAMBER of COMMERCE
EASTERN CONNECTICUT

1910 - 2010 | SUPPORTING BUSINESSES



January 21, 2010

Paul Stacey
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
State Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF
JAN 28 2010

Re: Proposed Stream Flow Regulations - RCRA sections 26-141b-1 to 26-141b-9, inclusive.

Dear Mr. Stacey:

As President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, I write on behalf of our 1,600 members to oppose the State Department of Environmental Protection's proposed stream flow regulations referenced above. These regulations, if codified into law, will have a significant and negative impact on the amount of water available to meet the public health, safety, and business needs of our region.

Although the Chamber is a strong supporter of efforts to protect the state's aquatic life, we are concerned that the proposed regulations do so to the detriment of the state's public health, safety and economic development. Under the proposed regulations, water companies and other large water users, such as farmers and manufacturers, will have to release significant quantities of water into the streams during six different periods of the year regardless of whether they have sufficient water supplies to meet the existing needs of their customers. Doing so runs the risk of undermining our economic competitiveness and quality of life by tipping the balance between competing water uses and placing the water needs of the state's aquatic life above all other needs.

Many water companies are also questioning whether they will have sufficient water supplies to support new development and residential construction. In addition, the proposed regulations will unnecessarily restrict water use during various periods of the year, which may be disruptive, particularly for those businesses that depend on a reliable supply of water, such as farmers, green house growers, hospitals, nursing homes, manufacturer's utility companies and restaurants.

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, Inc. serves the communities of Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville, Mystic, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown, and Waterford.

914 HARTFORD TURNPIKE • WATERFORD, CT 06385 • PHONE 860.701.9113 • FAX 860.701.9902

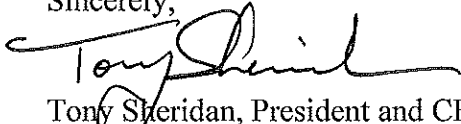
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Moreover, the proposed regulations would require costly infrastructure changes, the development of new reservoirs and wells, and require additional personnel and training to monitor flows and make the releases, all of which will translate into higher rates for water customers. This will add to the already high cost of doing business in this state, undermining our economic competitiveness. Without economic growth, our economy will continue to stagnate and we will continue to experience significant job losses in almost every sector.

Unnecessary and overreaching regulations have contributed to the tremendous cost of state government as well as the cost of doing business. I have attached a recently completed economic survey of Eastern Connecticut that further emphasizes the seriousness of our economic development concerns. The Chamber strongly opposed the regulations as put forward and urges your department to channel your energies towards streamlining and minimizing our regulatory system to provide relief for the struggling business community and to the thousands of unemployed residents. I will be pleased to answer any questions you have on this correspondence.

You may reach me at 860 701 9113 or by e-mail at tsheridan@chamberect.com. Thank you for your attention to this concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Sheridan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Sheridan, President and CEO
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut